

More Help Paying for Prescriptions



Senior Health Insurance
Information Program

Ask SHIIP

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Regional Program Manager

Q: I signed up in January 2005 for a Medicare-approved Drug Discount Card and a HoosierRx card. Because I have a low income, I received \$1,400 in help paying for my medications. Unfortunately, I have already spent it all. Where can I get additional help paying for my prescriptions?

A: Many of the Medicare-approved Drug Discount cards have agreements with pharmaceutical companies to provide you with extra help in paying for your prescriptions after your low-income assistance runs out. You may already be signed up for low cost or free medications!

The following drug companies have agreements with some of the Medicare-approved Drug Discount Cards: Abbott, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Genzyme, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Novartis, and Pfizer. Remember you will only benefit from one of these programs if you are taking a medication made by the

specific company offering the assistance.

The best way to find out if your card has any agreements is to call the company through which you have your Medicare-approved Drug Discount Card. Your pharmacist may also be able to assist you.

There are also other programs that could assist you with paying for your prescription drugs if you meet their qualifications.

Are you a veteran? If so, have you applied for VA medical services?

Do you have a service organization in your community willing to help you pay for your medications? Call your local hospital, doctor, or United Way.

Is your income below \$24,000 (\$32,000 for a couple)? If so you may be eligible for another type of assistance through the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. Drug companies have been providing free and reduced cost medications for years to **all** individuals with low incomes (not just seniors). Each company has its own guidelines and requirements. Not all drugs will qualify and you may be limited to a short-term supply. Your doctor will need to be involved in the

paperwork and distribution of the medications. Last month Governor Daniels announced a new hotline and web site sponsored by the drug companies to help Hoosiers access this help. For more information, visit www.rxforindiana.org or call toll free 1-877-793-0765.

You can also call SHIIP at 1-800-452-4800 ext. 1 and request a free information packet that includes information about programs mentioned here plus additional ones. You can also ask to talk to a volunteer counselor who would be happy to help guide you through the maze.

Note: If you have friends and family who might benefit from the Medicare-approved Drug Discount Card or HoosierRx card, it not too late to sign up! Especially for people with low incomes, the financial assistance available through the Medicare-approved Drug Discount Cards and HoosierRx has been a big help to many. Call 1-800-Medicare or SHIIP at 1-800-452-4800 to learn how to enroll. You can also visit www.medicare.gov for more information.

Source: SHIIP Prescription Packet

Address your questions to:

Ask SHIIP
311 W. Washington St, Ste. 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Or www.in.gov/idoi/shiip
1-800-452-4800

SHIIP is a free, unbiased counseling program provided by the Indiana State Department of Insurance. For assistance, call your local SHIIP site to make an appointment or call the state office at 1-800-452-4800 to obtain a list of local SHIIP sites.